been signed between the Government of Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of India on 12.10.92. This amount comprises a soft loan of DM 296.604 million (approx. Rs. 474.57 crores), grant assistance of DM 55.7 million (approx. Rs. 89.12 crores) and export credit of DM 75.0 million (approx. Rs. 120 crores). Soft loan will be provided at the interest rate of 0.75% per annum with the repayment period of 40 years including 10 years moratorium.

(b) The above mentioned soft loan would be utilised for import of fertilizers, assistance to financial institutions, for Uran-III project of Maharashtra State Electricity Board, to meet the increased costs of Neyveli Project and for the National Renewal Fund.

Illegal Import of Cars

3229. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Economic Intelligence Bureau and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have reported that four prominent firms dealing in cars from Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay are indulging in illegal-import of cars;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on account such illegal import Government are posing revenue of about Rs. 200 crores annually;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken against the firms indulging in illegal import of cars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tax Conference by Assocham

3230. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ASSOCHAM had organised a Tax Conference in cooperation with the International Fiscal Association (IFA);

(b) if so, what are the suggestions made to Government by this conference;

(c) whether any decision has been taken on these suggestions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestions made by the conference as such, have not been sent to the Government. ASSOCHAM has, however, sent to the Government a pre-Budget Memorandum which does incorporate, it is understood, some of the suggestions made during the conference. These suggestions, incorporated in the pre-Budget Memorandum, are not separately identifiable and, in fact, represent the requests made by the ASSOCHAM.

(c) and (d) The suggestions in the siad Memorandum are under the consideration of the Government.

Financial Position of Indian Corporate Sector

3231. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present financial position of the Indian Corporate Sector;

(b) whether it needs mobilisation of lands from the capital markets during the Eighth Five Year Plan period to meet investment requirements; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has forecast a nominal increase of 15.9% in the capital expenditure of the private corporate sector during 1992-93 over the capital expenditure in 1991-92.

(b) The mobilisation of household savings by the private corporate sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan is estimated at Rs. 58.770 crores at 1991-92 prices.

(c) The capital issues by the private corporate sector are not subject to prior approval by the Government. These issues are subject to the disclosure and investor protection Guidelines laid down by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Proposal to Float Gold Bonds

3232. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government" consideration to float a Gold Bond cheme in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Attention is invited in this connection to paragraph 20 of the speech of the Finance Minister introducing the Union Budget for the year 1992-93, which is enclosed herewith. [See below] The matter is being processed.

PARAGRAPH 20 OF FINANCE MINISTER'S SPEECH INTRODUCING THE UNION BUDGET 1992-93

Many Honourable Members of this House have suggested that the Government should introduce a Gold Bond, which would help to mobilise the idle gold resources of ordinary citizens to supplement official reserves. I had indicated in Parliament that this should be considered only when the balance of payments situation improves and adequate confidence has been built in the capacity of the Government to manage the economy. This has now been achieved. Our reserves are large and do not need supplementing, but I see no reason why patriotic citizens should be denied the opportunity to contribute their mite to the development of India's economy. I propose to introduce a scheme under which citizens can obtain a Gold Bond in return for gold. The bond would be for a period of five to seven years and would be liquidated by return of gold or equivalent value, at the option of the holder. It would enjoy a small interest, which will not attract income-tax. The Bonds will also be free of wealth tax and gift tax. As an added incentive, holders of such bonds will not be asked it any questions about the source of the gold holding. The Reserve Bank of India is preparing a detailed proposal along these lines.

Gold Seizures at Airports

3233. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of gold confiscated at various airports during the last three years;

(b) how many cases of prosecution arising out of this confiscation have been made and on how many persons; during this period;

(c) what has been the fate of these cases; and

(d) what are the regulations for the storage and disposal of this confiscated gold?